

National Heritage Areas Alliance Update

ANHA



National Park Service Director Addresses Audience of Over 300 at 9th Annual Congressional Reception

Over 300 preservation professionals and partners joined the membership of the Alliance of National Heritage Areas for their 9th Annual Congressional Reception on Monday, February 26 in Washington, DC at the Rayburn House Office Building. Distinguished guests at the largest annual reception to date included Pennsylvania Senator Bob Casey, Jr., Virgin Islands Delegate Donna Christensen, Corinne W.L. Ching, Hawaii State Legislator, and Special Assistant Vicki Dixon of the DOI Office of External and Intergovernmental Affairs.

Alliance of National Heritage Areas (ANHA) chair Dayton Sherrouse welcomed the National Heritage Areas, congressional staff and heritage area and historic preservation partners, who had converged in Washington for several coinciding annual meetings and congressional visits. ANHA executive director John Cosgrove acknowledged the work of reception co-sponsors Preservation Action, the National Trust Advisors, and the National Conference of State Historic Preservation Officers (NCSHPO). Senator Bob Casey, Jr. recognized the growing strength of the National Heritage Area movement, and in particular the six National Heritage Areas in Pennsylvania which have served in national leadership roles in

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Legislative Update

H.R.859: To establish the Sangre de Cristo National Heritage Area in the State of Colorado, and for other purposes.

Sponsor: Rep Salazar, John T. [CO-3] (introduced 2/6/2007)

H.R.929: To establish the Land Between the Rivers National Heritage Area in the State of Illinois, and for other purposes.

Sponsor: Rep Costello, Jerry F. [IL-12] (introduced 2/8/2007)

H.R.1145: To establish the Muscle Shoals National Heritage Area in the State of Alabama, and for other purposes.

Sponsor: Rep Cramer, Robert E. (Bud), Jr. [AL-5] (introduced 2/16/2007)

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Join Us in Detroit, June 18-21, for the International Heritage Development Conference!



development initiatives.

If you've never been to Detroit, come early and join NASCAR fans at a Nextel Cup race at Michigan International Speedway. Or, attend one of three day-long pre-conference tours that explore Detroit, museums and historic sites around the metropolitan area, or the Windsor, Canada/Detroit, Michigan relationship. On Tuesday, a dozen day-long, community-based regional labs will be

conducted in and around the MotorCities National Heritage Area.

Wednesday will consist of 20 educational sessions that highlight the conference's four sub-themes: *Community & Economic Growth; Creating Experience; Creative Communication/Education Strategies; and Story Telling.* Ken Burns, world-renowned documentary film maker, will provide the keynote address. MotorCities is coordinating several evening events that showcase the region's cultural heritage, including a night of fabulous Motown sounds.



The 2007 International Heritage Development Conference preliminary program is now available. You can learn more about educational sessions, field trips and special events, as well as register online at www.IHDC2007.org. This year's conference is hosted by MotorCities National Heritage Area, a thirteen-county region encompassing Detroit, Flint, Lansing, Michigan and surrounding communities, which highlights the past, present and future of the automobile story and its regional and international impacts. The conference provides numerous opportunities to share thought-provoking dialogues, cutting edge technology and communication ideas with directors, staff, and partners from emerging and designated local, state, national and international heritage areas and similar landscape-scale conservation and community

The conference program provides a variety of forums for sharing best practices and ideas in heritage development and community conservation with colleagues from across the United States, Canada, and Europe. For more information, visit www.IHDC2007.org

News from the Heritage Areas



Transforming Landscapes and Society: The Multiple Benefits of Restoration—Lessons from Yuma Heritage Area and South Africa's Working for Water Program

A bi-national riparian restoration conference in Yuma, Arizona, held on March 16 and sponsored by the Yuma Crossing Heritage Area, will explore how native habitat and river restoration projects can provide multiple benefits for local communities and economies. Lead speakers will include Charles Flynn of the Yuma Heritage Area and Guy Preston, director of South Africa's award-winning Working for Water and Working for Wetlands Programs. This participatory workshop will also include a panel of federal, state and local experts on restoration opportunities and challenges and ample time for discussion and exploration of issues. These two very different, but equally successful restoration models offer valuable lessons that can be shared and used to benefit restoration efforts through

out the United States and Mexico, especially along the Lower Colorado River.

The Yuma East Wetlands is in the process of creating one of the largest riparian and wetlands restorations on the Lower Colorado River. This 1,400 acre restoration project has involved the input and support of over 28 federal, tribal, state, municipal, and private entities. South Africa's Working for Water program employs over 32,000 people a year to manually clear invasive species along the country's waterways. The program has turned invasive species removal and restoration into a job creation and poverty reduction program in a country where half the population lives below the poverty line. This multi-agency, federal effort has led to the innovative and successful removal of over 1.2 million acres of invasive species through out South Africa.

Schuylkill River Heritage Area Receives Over \$271,000 to Improve the Watershed

The Schuylkill River Heritage Area has received \$271,148 from Exelon to bolster the Schuylkill River Watershed Restoration Fund—a fund used to improve water quality in the river and its tributaries. This is the second year that money has been available through the program, which was created by Exelon Nuclear in April 2005. The Schuylkill River Heritage Area oversees the

fund, distributing money annually to non-profit organizations and government agencies for projects that will enhance water quality and quantity in the Schuylkill River Watershed. The annual fund is part of a demonstration project for what is known as the water supply program at Exelon Nuclear's Limerick Generating Station. That program is under the purview of the Delaware River Basin Commission (DRBC).



The Schuylkill River Heritage Area will begin accepting applications for projects later this year. Recipients will be selected by a committee made up of representatives from Exelon, the Delaware River Basin Commission, Philadelphia Water Department, Environmental Protection Agency, Department of Environmental Protection and the Schuylkill River Heritage Area. For more information, visit www.schuylkillriver.org

ASSISTANCE

Save Our History Grant Program

The History Channel will fund dozens of educational community preservation projects across the country in 2007 through its Save Our History grant program. Teachers and youth group leaders, in partnership with museums, historical societies, preservation organizations, libraries, and/or archives, are eligible to apply for grants to fund projects that help students explore and preserve their local history. Last year, Augusta Canal National Heritage Area received an award to enable elementary and high school students to research and reenact the century-old celebration of the "Fantastics" 4th of July parade tradition in Augusta. The deadline for application is June 1, 2007. For more information, visit <http://www.saveourhistory.com/>

For more information on heritage areas, please visit our websites.

The Alliance Update is a partnership project of the Alliance of National Heritage Areas and the National Park Service National Heritage Areas Program.

Send your heritage area events and news to the editor by the 18th of the month for inclusion in the following month's bulletin.

Please forward this bulletin to others who may be interested, and encourage them to join our e-bulletin address list.

- Reach the editor at suzanne_copping@contractor.nps.gov
- Reach the National Coordinator for Heritage Areas at Brenda_Barrett@nps.gov
- To subscribe or unsubscribe, send an email to the editor.

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CONFERENCES

Rethinking Protected Areas in a Changing World: The George Wright Society Conference on Parks, Protected Areas, and Cultural Sites

This year's George Wright Society Conference on Parks, Protected Areas, and Cultural Sites, "*Rethinking Protected Areas in a Changing World*," will be held in St. Paul, MN, April 16-20. This interdisciplinary conference, which encompasses disciplines and activities that support the work of parks, protected areas, and cultural sites, encourages dialogue and information exchange among all the people needed for protected area conservation, from historians to biologists, managers to researchers, public agencies to private organizations, academics to field personnel. The conference brings together about 800 professionals, about 60% of which are NPS cultural and natural resource professionals. Other major audiences include federal and state agencies, NGOs, academic concerns, and organizations outside the USA.

This year, two panel sessions will highlight the work of National Heritage Areas.

Charting a Future for National Heritage Areas: Superintendents' Perspectives, International

Context, Evaluating Our Progress explores the current context of National Heritage Areas in the National Park Service and internationally, evaluation in National Heritage Areas, and future prospects for this emerging strategy. A side meeting entitled *Developing a Meaningful Evaluation Methodology for National Heritage Areas: What's Working, What's Missing?* will ask invited academics and professionals to probe an evaluation methodology currently in development for assessing the effectiveness of National Heritage Areas that includes performance indicators, peer review and periodic evaluation. The discussion will focus on the strengths and challenges of the methodology and applicable models or case studies from other fields and partnership projects. For more information, visit www.georgewright.org



Publications and Resources

Updated Alliance of National Heritage Areas website launched

Alliance Members and National Heritage Area partners can now find information on the Alliance's activities more easily, thanks to a reorganized website and some new features.

Publications, including the 2006 Annual Report, and information on the Alliance's activities, including the Heritage Development Institute, are now on-line. You can also now join the Alliance or its educational affiliate, the Heritage Development Partnership, on-line, and learn about and register for the 2007 International Heritage Development Conference. Two features under development include a National Heritage Areas interactive map which will soon link Alliance members' National Heritage Areas by theme and provide cross-regional visitor information. A new on-line Discussion Forum is available to members and the public for sharing information on heritage area-related topics. The website address is www.nationalheritageareas.org



New ANHA on-line Discussion Forum

The Alliance of National Heritage Areas has created a new on-line discussion forum to encourage information-sharing on heritage development and community conservation projects and initiatives. After you register with a username and password, you can read and participate in discussions about issues of regional and national interest, as well as propose your own discussion topics. Visit www.nationalheritageareas.org, click on "Discussion Forums," log in, and add to existing or create new discussion topics. Spread the word about this information-sharing tool; as the forum gathers members and momentum, the service will become increasingly dynamic and useful. So register today, pose your own questions, keep checking the forums for new entries, and spread the word about this new on-line information-sharing tool.

Heritage Areas highlighted in article on "Doors Open" published in National Trust Forum News

Doors Open: A Way to Promote Heritage Assets to Local Residents, published in the March/April 2007 issue of the National Trust for Historic Preservation's *Forum News*, describes the "Doors Open" strategy to increase local awareness and stewardship of both vernacular and extraordinary cultural and heritage assets. Events in several heritage areas are highlighted, including *Trails and Sails* in Essex National Heritage Area and *Walking Weekends* in Quinebaug & Shetucket NHC. Doors Open events, which invite local residents, business, and sites to freely participate in local preservation and conservation tours and activities annually over one or two days or weekends, provide numerous benefits for the local coordinating entities and increase local awareness of and advocacy for protecting cultural and heritage assets. Event coordinators have reported increased memberships and volunteer activity at their partners' organizations following a Doors Open event; repeat participation by residents and tourists in the Doors Open event; and increased partner involvement in implementing additional heritage and recreation activities. The article includes links to twenty organizations worldwide that lead Doors Open initiatives.

Partners Column

Destination: The Pacific is soliciting Statements of Qualifications to prepare a Feasibility Study

Destination: The Pacific (DTP) is soliciting Statements of Qualifications (SOQs) to prepare a Feasibility Study (FS) for the Columbia-Pacific National Heritage Area. DTP is undertaking a 2-step process in its search for a qualified applicant. The first is requesting qualifications followed by a request for proposals from those chosen for the final selection of the initial search for

qualifications. DTP is planning a two-step team selection process: Statements of Qualifications will be used to develop a short list; those short-listed will be asked to prepare proposals. The selected team will work closely with DTP, and will also have substantial contact with members of the public. The current FS/EA study area includes Clatsop and Columbia counties in Oregon and Pacific and Wahkiakum counties in Washington. If you have any questions feel free to email dtpp@seasurf.net, or call (503) 861-4403. More information is available at their website, www.DestinationThePacific.com

Congressional Reception

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addition to successfully coordinating local heritage area efforts to foster conservation, community stewardship and sustainable economic development.

National Park Service Director Mary Bomar warmly welcomed historic preservation and heritage area professionals to Washington, claiming that, since she would speak at a NCSHPO luncheon the following day, "tonight is for the National Heritage Areas." She acknowledged the changes that have occurred since she attended a National Park System Advisory Board event in July 2006 celebrating the release of its report *Charting a Future for National Heritage Areas*. In addition to becoming NPS Director, ten new National Heritage Areas were added to the NPS family in October 2006. Acknowledging the challenges and opportunities which the report presents, Bomar tasked Saratoga NHP superintendent Frank Dean, who also serves as executive director of the Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor, with updating her regularly on the progress of the NPS and the 37 National Heritage Areas toward implementing the Advisory Board's recommendations.

Legislative Update

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S. 637: A bill to direct the Secretary of the Interior to study the suitability and feasibility of establishing the Chattahoochee Trace National Heritage Corridor in Alabama and Georgia.

Sponsor: Jeff Sessions, R-AL (introduced 2/15/2007)

H.R. 1083: To amend the Act establishing the Rivers of Steel National Heritage Area in order to include Butler County, Pennsylvania, within the boundaries of that heritage area.

Sponsor: Phil English, PA (introduced 2/15/2007)

H.R. 1297: To establish the Freedom's Way National Heritage Area in the States of Massachusetts and New Hampshire, and for other purposes.

Sponsor: Rep Olver, John W. [MA-1] (introduced 3/1/2007)

S. 697: To establish the Steel Industry National Historic Site in the State of Pennsylvania [lies within the boundaries of Rivers of Steel NHA].

Sponsor: Arlen Specter, R-PA (introduced 2/27/2007)

H.R. 1270: To establish the Journey Through Hallowed Ground National Heritage Area Education and Tourism Act.

Sponsor: Roscoe Bartlett, R-MD (introduced 3/1/2007)

For a complete list of legislation introduced to date, please visit <http://www.cr.nps.gov/heritageareas/LEG/introbills110.pdf>



Yuma Crossing Heritage Area

In 1540, long before the first European footsteps touched Plymouth Rock, Yuma's colorful history began with the arrival of Spanish explorer Hernando de Alarcon.

The Yuma Crossing became the focal point for travel to the Wild West, from the Gold Rush to the arrival of the railroad and finally the Ocean-to-Ocean Bridge, which linked the East coast and the West coast in one land route. Today, Yuma Crossing National Heritage Area, Yuma Crossing Park, and sites including Yuma Territorial Prison showcase a captivating history amidst the beautiful Yuma East and West Wetlands and the silhouetted backdrops of the Chocolate and Castle Dome ranges of Arizona and California.



The heritage area's interpretive themes include Yuma's importance as a cultural crossroads, emphasizing the region's intersection of three major cultures: Anglo, Hispanic, and Native American. The heritage area recognizes that this rich blend of traditions can best be sustained by their continued expression through architecture, music, food and other folkways within the heritage area.

The heritage area has championed a multiyear, multimillion-dollar endeavor to restore habitat and water flow to the East Wetlands. In 2004, heritage area partners secured a Clean Water Act permit from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to begin



restoration work. More than 200 acres of nonnative vegetation have been cleared and more than 130 acres have been replanted with cottonwoods, willows,

mesquites, native grasses, and Palo Verde trees. A one-mile length of back channel has also been excavated, and some 20,000 new trees were planted in 2006. To date, ten different funding sources have provided almost \$6 million toward the eventual goal of \$18-20 million to complete the project.

Yuma Crossing will host the Alliance of National Heritage Areas Spring meeting April 24-27. The Alliance and the National Park Service will co-sponsor an all-day workshop for new National Heritage Areas, partners and NPS park and regional staff on cooperative agreements and management planning on Tuesday, April 24. Evening events and an all-day tour of the NHA will follow, to include the Arizona Territorial History at the Quarter Master Depot; Yuma Territorial Prison; Old St. Paul's, a 1909 Territorial Gothic church; and the 1929 Teen-Canteen. More information on Yuma Crossing Heritage Area can be found at <http://www.yumaheritage.com/>



YUMA CROSSING
HERITAGE AREA